

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LONDON 02160

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: ANC LEADER ON THE FUTURE OF WHITE RHODESIANS

1. LONDON TIMES FEBRUARY 11, CARRIES LEAD ARTICLE BY RHODESIAN ANC LEADER NDABANINGI SITHOLE, "THE CHOICE FACING THE WHITE MAN IN BLACK AFRICA," IN WHICH SITHOLE OUTLINES THE ROLE WHITE RHODESIANS CAN PLAY IN AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE AFRICAN RULERS TOWARD THE WHITE SETTLERS. (COPIES BEING POUCHED ADDRESSEES.) FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY.

2. AFTER NOTING THAT THERE ARE SECOND AND THIRD GENERATION EUROPEANS WHO HAVE NO COUNTRY OTHER THAN RHODESIA AND BELONG THERE LIKE ALL BLACKS, SITHOLE NOTES WHITES' UNCERTAINTY WHETHER AFRICAN RULERS WILL PROTECT WHITE INTERESTS AND FEARS THAT AFRICANS MIGHT TREAT THE EUROPEANS

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AS THE EUROPEANS HAVE TREATED THE AFRICANS DURING THE

LAST 80 YEARS.

3. SITHOLE THEN CLASSIFIES EUROPEANS IN RHODESIA INTO THOSE WHO COULD NOT STOMACH LIVING UNDER AFRICAN RULE AND THOSE WHO WOULD WISH TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THEIR HOME IN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. FORMER WOULD BE NO PROBLEM, SINCE THEY WOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY. AS FOR LATTER, AFRICAN LEADERS ON ALL LEVELS ACCEPT "BASIC PROPOSITION THAT ZIMBABWE IS AS MUCH THE WHITE MAN'S HOME AS IT IS THAT OF THE BLACK MAN." EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE WHITE PEOPLE TOWARD BLACK RULE, AND EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE HAS SHOWN THAT ON THE WHOLE, WHITE PEOPLE READILY ADJUST ONCE POWER HAS CHANGED HANDS. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE RHODESIAN WHITES WILL PROVE AN EXCEPTION TO THIS GENERAL OBSERVATION. THEREFORE, THE ROLE OF THE WHITE MAN IN AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE WILL BE DETERMINED PARTLY BY HIS ATTITUDE AND PARTLY BY HIS SKILLS.

4. GIVEN THE PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE, WHITE FARMERS NEED NOT FEAR ABOUT THEIR FUTURE, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE PROTECTED AGAINST COMPETITION FROM BLACK FARMERS AS THEY ARE AT PRESENT. WHITE ARTISANS WHO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK HAVE NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF IN AFRICAN-RULED ZIMBABWE, BUT THERE WILL BE NO MORE JOB RESERVATION AND JOBS WILL HAVE TO BE OPEN TO ANYONE WHO HAS THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS. AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE CANNOT AFFORD TO DO ANYTHING TO UNDERMINE THE CIVIL SERVICE, BUT THE CIVIL SERVICE CANNOT CONTINUE TO BE VIRTUALLY CLOSED TO THE AFRICAN PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN AND WILL BE THROWN OPEN TO EVERYONE WITH MERIT AS THE ONLY CONSIDERATION. PENSIONS WILL BE GUARANTEED. WHITE INDUSTRIALISTS WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY "A VERY IMPORTANT" ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRY, AND THOSE WHO HAVE THE NECESSARY CAPITAL AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT UNNECESSARY UPHEAVALS.

5. WHATEVER THE FUTURE HOLDS IN STORE FOR INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE, THE WHITE ZIMBABWEAN WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY HIS PART ALONG SIDE HIS BLACK COUNTERPART. THERE IS GREAT UNCLASSIFIED

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SCOPE FOR THE WHITE MAN IN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. END SUMMARY.

6. COMMENT: SITHOLE ARTICLE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE PICKED UP AND REPLAYED BY PRESS SERVICES, INCLUDING THE BBC OVERSEAS SERVICE. IT IS A CLEVER WAY FOR THE ANC TO GET A REASSURING MESSAGE ACROSS TO WHITE SETTLERS AND ALSO TO THEIR SUPPORTERS IN THE UK. END COMMENT.

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